



(12) **United States Patent**
Onishi

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,409,207 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Aug. 9, 2016**

(54) **ULTRASONIC DEVICE, ULTRASONIC PROBE, ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, AND ULTRASONIC IMAGING APPARATUS**

(71) Applicant: **SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION**,
Tokyo (JP)

(72) Inventor: **Yasunori Onishi**, Nagano (JP)

(73) Assignee: **Seiko Epson Corporation**, Tokyo (JP)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 376 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/164,680**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 27, 2014**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2014/0208853 A1 Jul. 31, 2014

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Jan. 28, 2013 (JP) 2013-012946

(51) **Int. Cl.**

B06B 3/04 (2006.01)

B06B 1/06 (2006.01)

G01N 29/06 (2006.01)

B06B 3/00 (2006.01)

G10K 11/30 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **B06B 1/0622** (2013.01); **B06B 3/00** (2013.01); **G10K 11/30** (2013.01); **G01N 29/0654** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC **B06B 1/0622**; **B06B 3/00**; **G01N 29/0654**; **G10K 11/30**

USPC **73/606**; **310/319**, **335**

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,957,100 A 9/1990 Herzog et al.
5,050,128 A * 9/1991 Saitoh G10K 11/02
310/335
5,423,220 A * 6/1995 Finsterwald B06B 1/0622
310/322
6,418,084 B2 * 7/2002 Saito G10K 11/30
367/150
2002/0105250 A1 8/2002 Klee et al.
2014/0211587 A1 * 7/2014 Kiyose G01S 7/52053
367/7
2015/0216504 A1 * 8/2015 Kiyose B06B 1/06259
600/472

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

JP 63-252583 A 10/1988
JP 03-143433 A 6/1991
JP 2002-271897 A 9/2002
JP 2007-201901 A 8/2007
JP 2009-072370 A 4/2009
* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner — J M Saint Surin

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Global IP Counselors, LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Provided is an ultrasonic device including: an ultrasonic element array substrate having a plurality of ultrasonic elements that each include a piezoelectric body; an acoustic lens secured via an acoustic matching layer to a surface, formed with the ultrasonic elements, of the ultrasonic element array substrate; and a support member secured to a surface, opposite to the surface formed with the ultrasonic elements, of the ultrasonic element array substrate, wherein the support member is formed to have a larger area, in plan view in the thickness direction of the ultrasonic element array substrate, and a higher bending stiffness than the ultrasonic element array substrate, and the acoustic lens is formed to have a lower bending stiffness than the ultrasonic element array substrate. The above-described ultrasonic device further includes an acoustic matching layer filled between the ultrasonic element array substrate and the acoustic lens.

20 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets

